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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Eighth Meeting  
30 November and 1 December 1972

Minutes

Members present: Aines, Becker, Cuadra, Dunlap, Coland, Lerner, Lorenz  
(for Mumford), Moore, Scott, Velde, Zipf, and  
Burkhardt, Chairman

Staff present : Stevens, Swartz, Reszetar

The meeting was convened in the Bank of America, San Francisco, California.

The Chairman opened the meeting, thanked the members for their presence, and accepted the minutes as corrected. Mr. Stevens reported on staff activities, on development of the annual report, on the progress toward future regional hearings, and on the budget level given to the Commission for fiscal 1974. The 1974 budget has been appealed by the Chairman to President Nixon, but there was little hope that the ceiling for personnel or the dollar level would be increased as a result. In the discussion of the budget that followed, the members indicated that access to higher dollar levels will follow an awareness on the part of the Office of Management and Budget that information programs and legislation need a higher priority than they now enjoy. One of the tasks of the Commission, then, is to attack the information issues that are compelling and in today's news--copyright, for one. This approach may produce money directly from OMB or from other agencies whose programs embrace libraries. Becker proposed a specific program directed toward legislation to create a national information network. (This proposal was later initiated with the appointment of a task force to draft the proposed bill. Becker is Chairman; the proposed membership is Baker, Cuadra, Kemeny, and Moore.)

The principal discussion of the meeting centered on the framework for action that was developed under a committee that included Cuadra, Becker, and Lerner. The text of the revised framework was presented by Swartz and re-edited by the Commission. As a potential piece for public discussion, the entries were developed to indicate only the known facts and known directions for action.

The document is now titled, "Framework for Planning Library and Information Services for the Nation." The major areas of consideration are:

1. User needs.
2. Current adequacies and deficiencies.
3. Patterns of organization.
4. Financial and legal support.
5. Technology.
6. Human resources and education.

The program tasks have been identified as:

1. Define NCLIS goals and objectives.
2. Review and synthesize current knowledge.
3. Specify corrected objectives.
4. Define additional research or actions necessary to meet goals and objectives.
5. Develop a time schedule for research or other actions.
6. Develop and promote new policies and legislation as required.

Discussion of the framework document incorporated reports on implementation of tasks. The user studies by Parker and Bourne were reported as nearing completion; draft documents are expected to be completed before the January meeting. Adequacies and deficiencies are coming to light through the regional hearings and their continuance was urged for many reasons. The Atlanta hearing will cover 10 states and seek comments on the framework as well as ideas on current problems of regional, national and local, or topical interest. An increasingly wider segment of society is to be asked for testimony. Tentative future hearings are planned for the Northeast in the fall of 1973 and the Southwest for the spring of 1974. Hearings for the Mountain Plains and the mid-Atlantic states will be held later if there is a need.

The Association of Research Libraries study on regional interlibrary loan centers was reported as "in progress" at the University of Illinois.

The copyright problem remains a key issue. The Commission decided to ask Senator McClellan and his Copyright Committee whether the Commission could be helpful at this time in bringing the differing views on fair use and photocopying for interlibrary loan together and a letter to this purpose drafted by Goland was approved. Stevens will discuss the issue with Senate staff before sending the letter.

Burkhardt reported on the work of the Committee on the Library of Congress. Stevens reported on the activity of the Public Administration Service contract.

The ALA has asked Senator Pell to propose a joint resolution calling on the President to hold a White House Conference on Libraries in 1976. The draft resolution asks that NCLIS be the executive agency to run the conference. The Commission agreed that the utility of such a conference in 1976 is presently impossible to determine. Unless and until the Commission is asked to run such a conference, it will remain uncommitted to the notion.

Dr. Burkhardt asked the Commission to consider two policies. The Commission will, in the future, study with care the projects, programs, and ideas for information activity in other agencies and groups and then lend its support where the work of others contributes to national planning for information services or to implementation of improved information services for users. The Commission will consider written requests for attendance at its deliberative sessions and may invite those who can be accommodated to be present for discussions that are germane to the individual or the organization he or she represents. Executive sessions will continue to be held as necessary. A legal review of the "open meeting" question is in progress.

Colonel Aires reported on the COSATI review and impending organizational changes of that body.

The following information items were reported and, in a few cases, briefly discussed:

- a. The logotype has been recognized by the registrar and will become an official symbol of the NCLIS when it first appears on a publication--probably the annual report.
- b. The January meeting will include reports by Information Industry Association, National Center for Educational Statistics, and the National Federation for Abstracting and Indexing Services.
- c. The Carnegie and Mellon Foundations have made substantial recent grants to the following libraries: Center for Research Libraries, Folger Library, Morgan Library, Huntington Library, Newberry Library, American Antiquarian Society Library, and the American Philosophical Society Library.
- d. The 1974 I.F.L.A. meeting is in Washington in December 1974. NCLIS will be asked to participate because the meeting is on national and international planning.
- e. The Bureau of Libraries and Learning Resources is being reorganized under Burton Lamkin. (Mr. Lamkin has since been temporarily detailed to another assignment.)
- f. Proposition 18--a censorship action--failed in California referendum.
- g. A census of Southeastern libraries is in progress under the direction of Mary Edna Anders at Georgia Tech.
- h. National Library Week in 1973 begins on 8 April.

The following resolution was adopted by the Commission:

"The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, after hearing testimony from scores of witnesses both in San Francisco and Chicago, has concluded that Federal grants such as those now provided under the Library Services and Construction Act will continue to be needed for development and improvement of libraries and information services that will benefit the citizens of the United States. Librarians and Information Specialists from many different types of institutions as well as representatives of citizen groups expressed concern that revenue sharing would not solve the long-range problems of libraries and that it is not a viable alternative to LSCA funding."